

Introduced by Senators Galgiani and Cannella

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Eggman and Olsen)

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February 26, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 92—Relative to California Agriculture Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 92, as introduced, Galgiani. California Agriculture Day.

This measure would recognize the week of March 23, 2014, to March 29, 2014, inclusive, as National Agriculture Week, and would designate March 19, 2014, as California Agriculture Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, March 19, 2014, is designated as California
- 2 Agriculture Day, a day of celebration to commemorate agriculture's
- 3 importance in our daily lives, its vital role in keeping Californians
- 4 nourished, and its role in keeping the state's economy ranked as
- 5 the eighth largest in the world; and
- 6 WHEREAS, The 2014 theme of California Agriculture Day is
- 7 "Common Ground: Celebration, Innovation, Education" in
- 8 recognition of the diversity and significance of California
- 9 agriculture through training students for agricultural careers,
- 10 developing new and innovative technologies, and continuing the

1 award-winning and globally recognized California educational
2 institutions; and

3 WHEREAS, For more than 60 consecutive years, California
4 has been the number one agricultural state in the nation, producing
5 more than 400 crop and livestock products and accounting for
6 approximately 50 percent of the nation's supply of fruits,
7 vegetables, and nuts; and

8 WHEREAS, The inexhaustible efforts of millions of
9 farmworkers have contributed greatly to the success of the
10 agricultural industry; and

11 WHEREAS, California's agricultural community relies on a
12 vital infrastructure that aids in the exclusion and early detection
13 of plant and animal pests and diseases that impact public health,
14 the environment, and commerce; and

15 WHEREAS, With less than 1 percent of California's population
16 engaged in farming and agriculture, each agricultural worker today
17 provides for more than 100 other people, compared to just 13 in
18 1947; and

19 WHEREAS, Today's agricultural industry offers over 300
20 challenging and rewarding career opportunities, from on-farm
21 cultivation, to food science and engineering; and

22 WHEREAS, Over the past seven decades, advances in
23 agricultural production have resulted in a drop in consumer
24 spending on food products from 23 percent of disposable income
25 in 1947 to approximately 10 percent today; and

26 WHEREAS, California is the nation's leader in agricultural
27 exports, shipping more than 16 billion dollars worth of food and
28 agricultural commodities around the world in 2011; and

29 WHEREAS, California's agricultural industry constantly seeks
30 to incorporate the latest scientific and technological production
31 and marketing techniques to meet the demands of changing
32 consumer needs and complex world markets; and

33 WHEREAS, Public-private partnerships are continually being
34 developed to improve quality and ensure safe handling practices
35 on the farm, in transit, and during processing; and

36 WHEREAS, California consumers say that it is important to
37 them to purchase foods grown in California and California
38 consumers say that "California grown" is more important to them
39 today than it was in years past, and in the last decade California

1 consumers have increased support of farmers' markets, community
2 supported agricultural programs and farm-to-school programs; and

3 WHEREAS, A broad approach to agricultural education is vital
4 to ensure that California agriculture continues to flourish; and

5 WHEREAS, California is estimated to lose 500,000 acres of
6 agricultural land by 2050 and more than 300,000 acres of it will
7 have been highly productive irrigated cropland, and thus California
8 should continue to work for conservation to preserve California's
9 agricultural heritage; and

10 WHEREAS, It is appropriate for all Californians to recognize
11 our farmers, ranchers, farmworkers, and others involved in
12 providing such a bounty to our nation and the entire world; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
15 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes and honors
16 the men and women of California agriculture for their dedication
17 and productivity by observing the week of March 23, 2014 to
18 March 29, 2014, inclusive, as National Agriculture Week, and
19 designating Wednesday, March 19, 2014, as California Agriculture
20 Day; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
22 this resolution to the authors for appropriate distribution.